

# AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (ENDORSEMENT CODE: 1505)

**TO AVOID DELAYS:** After applying online, please submit **ALL** necessary documentation, including the oath of allegiance/verification of accuracy form, **together** in a **single packet** to the address below. If possible, please have transcripts sent to you first and then forward them in the sealed envelope(s) together with any other documents. Please include your Social Security number or tracking number in all correspondence with our office.

**NJ Department of Education  
Office of Certification and Induction  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500**

This endorsement entitles the holder to teach American Sign Language in all public schools.

## Degree Requirement

A minimum of a bachelor's degree is required from a [regionally accredited college/university](#)

## Cumulative GPA Requirement

- New Jersey requires that candidates for certification achieve a cumulative **GPA of at least 3.0 when a GPA of 4.00** equals an A grade for students graduating on or after **September 1, 2016 (2.75 for those graduating before September 1, 2016)** in a baccalaureate degree program, higher degree program or a State-approved post-baccalaureate certification program with a minimum of 13 semester-hour credits.
- Please note that there are [GPA Flexibility Rules](#) where a high praxis score may offset a GPA that is lower than 3.0, but higher than 2.75.

## Subject Matter Preparation

- For certification as an **American Sign Language** teacher, current regulations require that applicants complete a minimum of 30 credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of **ASL**. A coherent sequence requires that at least 12 credits are completed at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level). Examples of courses accepted for **ASL** include "American Sign Language"; "Interpreting ASL"; "Fingerspelling"; "Advanced ASL"; "ASL Syntax and Grammar"; "Basic Hearing Science"; and "Audiology Principles". Related courses may be accepted depending on the course description/content. Please provide a course description if a course is not taken from the **ASL** Department. Courses in pedagogy/education are not accepted towards the subject matter preparation. The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the **ASL** subject matter is based on professional and content standards found in the NJ Licensing Code. **All credits must appear on a regionally accredited 2 or 4-year college/university transcript.**

## Testing Requirements

- **Basic Skills Assessment Requirement (choose one)**  
All candidates applying for their initial CE must pass a Commissioner-approved [test of basic skills](#). Scores must be presented directly from Educational Testing Service to the NJ Department of Education. Only official scores are accepted. **The New Jersey Department of Education code (R7666) and your Social Security number must appear on your test score report in order to be accepted. Please submit a copy of your test score report if you have taken the appropriate exams.**

**OR**

[Score in the top one-third percentile](#) on the SAT, ACT, or GRE for the year the test was taken. Official score reports must be sent directly from the testing agency.

- **Sign Language Proficiency**

Current regulations require applicants for this endorsement to possess linguistic competency in the designated world language as demonstrated on a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of receptive/expressive proficiency for American Sign Language.

Teacher of ASL: Proficiency Assessment Options Include:

- American Sign Language teachers Association – Eligible ASLTA certificates include Provisional, Qualified, or Professional levels. Additional information is available at <http://www.aslta.org>.
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf - Eligible RID certificates include CI, CI and CT, or CDI. Additional information is available at <http://rid.org>

- Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment – (EIPA) EIPA score of 3 or higher  
Additional information is available from Silvia Coelho-yi, Union County College  
Phone: (908) 791-4952 Email: [yi@ucc.edu](mailto:yi@ucc.edu)
- Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI formerly SCPI) – requires a minimum score of advanced or above.  
Testing information can be obtained from the New Jersey School for the Deaf, West Trenton, (609) 530-2332,  
Contact: Joan Cohen-Administrative Coordinator. Information is also available on the website:  
<http://mksd.org>

#### **Physiology and Hygiene Requirement**

- This requirement may be completed by presenting evidence of basic military training, OR by completing a course such as biology, health or nutrition that appears on a regionally accredited 2 or 4 year college or university transcript, OR by completing a 35 question True/False test administered in the [county office](#) of education. Please contact a [county office](#) of education **after** you apply online.

#### **Fee Requirement**

- No checks or money orders will be accepted
- Please make the payment [online](#)
- Please notify your examiner after payment has been made.
- If your application expires after six months, you will be charged a fee of \$70.
- All fees, including money left on file, are nonrefundable

#### **Online Certificate Information**

- All information regarding applications and certifications is now available online, including certificate name, certificate ID number, date of issuance, and expiration date, if applicable. Instructions to view this information can be found [here](#).
- In order to make certification information available more quickly, this information will appear on our website in lieu of the issuance of paper certificates. If you would like to view the status of your application, then please visit our [application status check](#).

**You cannot complete the entire application process online. After applying online, please submit ALL necessary documentation together IN A SINGLE PACKET to the NJ DOE in order to complete your application. Please put your tracking number on all documents that you send to our office.**

**IF YOU HAVE MET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS,  
THEN [CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY ONLINE.**